TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 22 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 5.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 12 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 204.3 billion ton-miles, up 1.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 22 totaled 380,004, down 4.7 percent from last year, and 2.5 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.9 percent in the West, but down 11.1 percent in the East, and 9.7 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased, with coal loadings showing a decline of 9,754 cars (7.9 percent). Only lumber and wood products, up by 1,575 cars (22.9 percent), recorded a significant gain. Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 15 totaled 99,423 trailers and/or containers, 14.9 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 11 weeks of the year was 1,025,928 trailers and/or containers, up 13.0 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/22/86:

	Loadings in Week ended March 22, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,596	D	2,570	11.1	D	1,304	6.0
Other farm products	2,763	D	582	17.4	D	176	6.0
Metallic ores	15,558	I	698	4.7	I	196	1.3
Coal	113,430	D	9,754	7.9	D	2,975	2.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,992	I	43	0.4	I	31	0.3
Nonmetallic minerals	9,155	D	3,294	26.5	D	735	7.4
Grain mill products	10,108	D	262	2.5	D	611	5.7
Food and kindred products	10,820	D	121	1.1	D	322	2.9
Primary forest products	10,541	D	2,070	16.4	I	16	0.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,466	I	1,575	22.9	I	456	5.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,043	D	1,405	9.7	D	306	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	25,813	D	1,528	5.6	D	1,122	4.2
Petroleum products	4,347	D	490	10.1	D	117	2.6
Stone, clay and glass products	9,514	D	1,883	16.5	D	354	3.6
Coke	4,640	D	199	4.1	D	205	4.2
Metals and products	8,616	D	798	8.5	I	190	2.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,190	D	18	0.1	D	1,060	4.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,511	D	1,630	16.1	D	216	2.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,593	D	1,112	16.6	I	45	0.8
All other carloads	64,166	I	6,466	11.2	D	1,152	1.8
LCL traffic	142	I	12	9.2	I	15	11.8
Total Cars Loaded	380,004	D	18,992	4.7	D	9,706	2.5
Corresponding week of 1985	398,926						

	1986	1985	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (12 weeks)	4,427,650	4,361,391	I	1.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
11 Weeks ended March 15	186.8	183.7	I	1.7
Week ended March 22	17.4	18.3	D	5.0
12 weeks cumulative	204.3	202.1	I	1.1

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